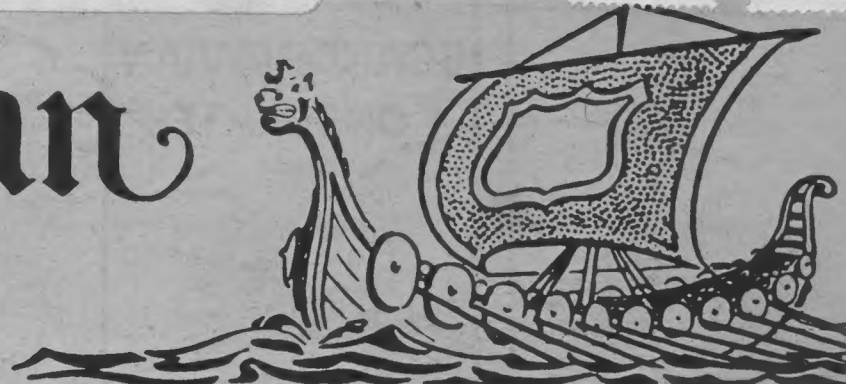


Scandinavian News



PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

Vol. XXI No. 1

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JUNE 86

His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Harald and His Family visit Edmonton

The birth of a prince is always an historic event. However, it was a particularly special occasion for the Norwegian people when an heir to the Throne came into the world on February 21, 1937. The birth took place at Skaugm, the estate which is still the home of the Crown Prince Family.

This was the first time in 567 years that a prince had been born in Norway, and the birth ensured the hereditary succession of the relatively newly established Norwegian Royal Family.

King Haakon VII, Harald's paternal grandfather, became King of Norway after the dissolution of the union with Sweden in 1905. According to the Constitution of 1814, he could only be succeeded by male heirs. Now the country was ensured of having a king, at least for the next two generations, and this meant a great deal to most Norwegians.

Crown Prince Harald is son of King Olav V, born in 1903, and Crown Princess Martha (1901-1954). King Olav is son of King Haakon VII (1872-1957) and Queen Maud (1869-1938). King Haakon was Prince Carl of Denmark before he was elected King of Norway in 1905. Queen Maud was daughter of the Prince of Wales, later to become King Edward VII, and Queen Alexandra of Great Britain.

Crown Prince Harald's mother was daughter of the Swedish Prince Carl (1861-1951) and Princess Ingeborg (1878-1958).

Heir Presumptive Harald was brought up to carry out the responsibilities to which he was born. On the one hand he was prepared for a life as guardian of royal traditions. At the same time he grew up with strong ties to the people and to his own time, in accordance with the traditions of modern constitutional monarchies.

When King Olav announced in 1968 that Crown Prince Harald wished to marry a

commoner, the political debate on the future of the monarchy reached great heights.

It says a lot, both for the Royal Family's position and for Sonja Haraldsen as a person, that the great majority of the population accepted her immediately with great enthusiasm. She became an integral part of the national symbol of unity represented by the Royal Family in Norway.

Sonja Haraldsen became Crown Princess Sonja upon her marriage to Crown Prince Harald on August 29, 1968. Their engagement occasioned

a wide-ranging public debate. However, there was considerably less criticism than some people feared when the heir to the Norwegian Throne chose a wife with a commoner's background. She was immediately accepted as a member of the very popular Norwegian Royal Family.

Sonja Haraldsen was born in Oslo on July 4, 1937. She spent her childhood at Vindered in Oslo, took her lower secondary school diploma in 1954, and studied dress-making and tailoring at the Oslo Vocational School. She graduated from the Swiss E'cole Professionnelle des

Continued on Page 3



Crown Prince Harald, Crown Princess Sonja and family recently visited Edmonton

Scandinavian Centre Annual Meeting The President Reports

Annual Meeting — April 9th was held at the Royal Copenhagen Restaurant on Yellowhead Trail.

The President, Kurt Sorensen, called the meeting to order at 8:00 with approximately 38 members in attendance. A summary of the past year's events was given, however, in very small details. As you know, due to the economy, the board has tried their utmost to sell the properties of the Scandinavian Centre and that on one occasion we thought that we had the West End property sold for \$425,000.00; we had a total of \$18,000.00 down payment through the Real Estate Company; however, just lately we were informed by the purchaser that due to the economy they were not prepared to go ahead with the land purchase.

However, we now have a new offer from another client in the amount of \$300,000 which will be brought to the Board of Directors for approval and, if necessary, a special general meeting would be called for acceptance of the offer.

As I said earlier, the year 1985 was a very black year;

we have tried our utmost to sell all our inventory from the Scandinavian Centre. At this time, we have only succeeded in all cutlery and kitchen equipment; what we have left is the dining room tables and approximately 200 chairs. If anyone can use them in Community Halls, Churches, etc. they would be ideal pieces of furniture for such areas.

Knud-Holm Pedersen gave a report on the Scandinavian Newspaper wherein he indicated that it was not doing as well as it should have. Our subscriptions from the previous year are down considerably, mainly from many of our subscribers from 1985; they have not renewed their subscriptions, be it for the newspaper or for the advertising. We certainly do need their support and I'm sure Knud-Holm Pedersen would like to see them again this year.

At this time I would like to thank Knud-Holm Pedersen for the tremendous job he has done to keep the Scandinavian News rolling. I know, Knud, it is a very large job. I do not think anyone realizes how many details are involved in getting a newspaper out six times a year. A special thank

you to Knud for the work he has done in the past.

Viking Ship — The Scandinavian Centre still has the Viking Ship Float, moved by the membership that it be put out for tender to the highest bidder. The Viking Ship itself is, perhaps, not much value to anybody, however the undercarriage, I believe, is in good mechanical condition.

Lennart Petersson at the meeting brought up a very good point. "Where is the Scandinavian Centre going from here?". As your President, I would say we must stick together, we must try to firm up all our financial commitments and try to sell all surplus equipment and properties; when that portion is completed I would say, then is the time to decide where the Scandinavian Centre is going. I would not like to see it cancelled out; I do not think there are many opportunities for us to start a brand new Scandinavian Centre, be it on a smaller scale, but I do think the participants are still there. I think the Scandinavians still have their hearts in the Centre and if you all think positive, I think, one day, we will have a new Scandinavian Centre.

Election of Officers —

Your new slate of officers for the year 1987 are the following:

Kurt Sorensen	President
Wally Broen	Treasurer
Knud-Holm Pedersen	
	Scandinavian News
Mike Collins	Secretary
Leif Oddson	Director
Sig Sorensen	Director
Claus Jacobsen	Director

I would like, at this time, to welcome all our new Directors onto our 1987 board for the Scandinavian Centre. I would like to thank the outgoing Directors for the tremendous work they have done in the past. Without them, I can assure you, our Scandinavian Centre would not even be here today.

I thank you all.

Yours truly,

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Kurt O. Sorensen
President

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Solglyt Spotlight

By Bob Burt

August 3rd and 4th are the dates of the Edmonton Heritage Festival. The food tent will include Danish pastries, Icelandic vinarterta and Norwegian lefse; other novelties will include "Vikings on a Stick" (meatballs). This is the Anniversary of the Festival and will call for an exceptional show.

The Sewing Club will hold a Lefse making bee on Thursday, June 12th at the Devon Community Hall from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for sale at the Heritage Day food tent.

St. Hans Fest will be enjoyed June 20 - 22 at Mulhurst, Lutheran Church Camp on Pigeon Lake.

Trollhaugen Language and Cultural Camp will be August 17th to 23rd at Sylvan Lake. Sponsor this year is Fjellsyn Lodge of Olds, Alberta - the theme, "Trollhaugen Salutes Famous Norwegians".

The Sewing Club will commence their new Season September 16th at the home of Eleanor Anderson starting at 1 p.m.

Curling commences the fall season in mid October. They will meet Friday evenings at Balmoral Curling Rink. The President for this coming season is Keith Moore.

Bowling season will begin in September; league meets each Tuesday evening at Windsor Bowl. Those interested in THIS season of bowling contact Peter Finstad.

Kare Hellum left for Vietnam again, where he will spend two months as Forestry Advisor for the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Dr. Kenneth Domier will attend a conference in Paris, June 3rd-5th as a Canadian delegate for "Standards for Farm Tractors".

We are most sorry to lose another of our Sons of Norway members - Dave and Goldie Borge moved to Grande Prairie where Dave was transferred with the Workers Compensation Board. This couple have been most active over the past number of years.

The Sons of Norway and Cross-Country Skiers will sorely miss their associate and ski instructor, Ole Hovind. Ole, age 79, passed away February 22nd, and is mourned by all who knew him. He was a regularly-attending member of Sons of Norway and Torske Klubben who joined S/N in 1970. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to his wife, Marie. We will remember him.



Still in Fine Shape -
Janette Burt

Being in fair shape, Janette Burt entered a walkathon in Devon, Saturday, May 3rd to benefit the Devon General Hospital Auxiliary. She collected the most money individually, being sponsored for \$275.00, and finished the 10 Kilometre distance in 1 hour 5 minutes.

Wally and Betty Broen left Edmonton mid-March and returned mid-April from travels in Arizona and California. While in California they visited their son, Peter, at Torrance (suburb of Los Angeles) where he is working as a consultant Engineer flying planes and testing motor cycles.

August Stolee visited Norway, May 9th-23rd, visiting relatives and travelling.

Sig and Selma Sorenson spent Easter in Toronto with their daughter, leaving Edmonton March 28 and returning April 7th. While in Toronto they were present at the Norwegian-Canada World Champion Curling game which Canada won.



Linda Nyhus, Jamie Robertson and
Carmen Berg

By Bob Burt

Sons of Norway met April 7th at McKay House to choose a Queen to reign for a year over Solglyt 143 Lodge and represent Norwegian culture. Judges were Bea Huser, present member of Solglyt Lodge and past teacher, an active member of the lodge; Myrna Kampjes, a grade XII student of East Glen High School, and finalist in the Miss Edmonton Pageant of 1986; Brian Sveinbjorensen, member of the Icelandic Society and a Medical X-ray technician. The Master of Ceremonies for the occasion was James Robertson.

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Contestants for Queen were:

Carmen Berg, aged 17 years, daughter of Allan and Eva Berg, a Grade XII student at Sturgeon Composite High School, who expects on graduation to enter the U. of A. in Nursing, majoring in Neo-natal care, Delivery or Emergency. She has attended many Language Camps, and loves both snow and water skiing.

Linda Nyhus, 22 years old, attending Camrose Lutheran College (second year) studying languages; she is in the Scandinavian program. She also has attended several Language Camps, and last year attended Camp Norway; her plans are to attend U. of Oslo in 1987. This summer she plans to attend the Culture and Language Camp at Sylvan Lake. Her plans for the future are to be part of a Trade Commission Office.

The judges, after much discussion, stated that both girls should be winners, but named runner-up Princess to be Carmen Berg, and the New Sons of Norway Queen, Linda Nyhus. She will be crowned at the Masonic Temple, May 17th at the Syttende Mai banquet.

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Crown Prince Visits Edmonton continued ...

jeunes Filles in Lausanne — a women's college which offered social sciences, accounting and fashion design, among other things.

Later, the Crown Princess took her upper secondary school diploma and earned a degree in the Arts, majoring in the subjects of French, English and art history.

Crown Princess Sonja carries out a number of official duties, both together with her father-in-law, King Olav V, and her husband, and on her own.

She has travelled extensively both in Norway and abroad, and serves as patron of a number of organizations including The Norwegian Red Cross's children's relief and the Norwegian Association for Home Arts and Crafts. She is also an honorary member of a variety of institutions ranging from the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters, art galleries, the Norwegian Defence Association, the Society for the Preservation of Norwegian Ancient Monuments and the Friends of the Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 1972 Crown Princess Sonja participated in the establishment of a fund in her daughter's name, HRH Princess Martha Louise's Fund, a foundation devoted to helping handicapped Norwegian children. Her Royal Highness is very concerned about the situation of the various population groups in the country, and she often visits institutions for the elderly, children and the mentally handicapped.

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess have two children, Princess Martha Louise (born September 22, 1971) and Prince Haakon Magnus (born July 20, 1973).

Their Royal Highnesses, Crown Prince Harald and Crown Princess Sonja of Norway, visited Alberta May 31 to June 3, 1986.

The Royal Couple arrived in Edmonton on June 1, after a brief private stopover in Alberta's picturesque Rocky Mountains.

The focal point of the visit was Camrose, Alberta where Crown Prince Harald and Crown Princess Sonja commemorated the 75th anniversary of Camrose Lutheran College. The College was founded by Norwegian settlers and

has maintained a strong tie with its Scandinavian heritage.

Public highlights of the visit included: **June 1** - Their arrival in Edmonton, at the municipal airport, Government of Alberta hanger at 7:30 p.m.; and **June 2** - welcome and short walkabout at Camrose City Hall at 10:20 a.m.; a motorcade through Camrose, a walkabout and unveiling of a commemorative statue at Camrose Lutheran College at 11:00 a.m.; and their arrival at Alberta Government House, Edmonton for a dinner hosted by Her Honour, The Honourable Helen Hunley, Lieutenant Governor, at 7:35 p.m.

The Prince and Princess attended convocation at Camrose Lutheran College. The ceremony included an academic procession and the Royal Couple were joined, by invitation, by the friends and relatives of the graduating students.

First Danish Lutheran Congregation in Canada Dickson, Alberta

By Esther (Morck) Thesberg

Shortly after the turn of the century, a group of young Danes, who only a few years earlier had left their native land to emigrate to Omaha, Nebraska, heard glowing reports of the homestead land available in western Canada. They were men of faith and vision, and the plan to establish a Danish colony on Canadian soil was conceived. After long consultations with land agents, they were allotted a block of land twenty miles west of Innisfail.

Upon the advice of their pastor, G.B. Christiansen, who was concerned about their spiritual welfare, they formed a congregation in February of 1903, at a meeting held before their departure in Carl Christiansen's home. Moving to their new homes, they brought with them their Bibles, Danish hymnals and a book of sermons by Pastor Vilhelm Beck.

By July 1903, that first group of seventeen settlers (Mr. & Mrs. Fred Pedersen; Mr. & Mrs. Carl Christiansen and their six month old son, Homo; Mr. & Mrs. Henry Larsen and sons, Arthur, William and Thorvald; Mr. & Mrs. L.B. Christensen; Mr. & Mrs. Chris Larsen and their infant daughter, Ethel; two single men, John Jensen and Chris Christiansen) had pitched their tents on the highest,

driest spots of their respective homesteads. There was mud and water everywhere, and myriads of mosquitos added to the discomfort of man and beast. Too much water plagued the pioneers until the Dickson Drainage District was formed. With government grants ditches were dug and the land could be drained.

The first task was to build log houses, before winter set in. Of necessity, these were crudely built and the roofs leaked every time it rained. Consequently, on sunny days, bedding, furniture and other household items had to be moved outside to dry. On one such lovely day, Mrs. L.B. Christensen placed a highly prized mirror against an outside wall to dry. The family goat caught sight of his own image in the mirror. Thinking an intruder had invaded his territory, he charged and shattered the mirror into a thousand pieces.

On Christmas Eve, everyone gathered at Henry Larsen's home in the traditional Danish manner. Henry, who had found carpenter work in Calgary, brought Christmas goodies for the occasion. Many thoughts

must have been sent back to their friends in Omaha and to loved ones in Denmark. Possibly a few tears were wiped away. But Henry brought out the Bible and read the Christmas gospel in their mother tongue. The Danish hymnals were brought out and the old familiar carols resounded from the humble log home. Perhaps the coyotes listened and wondered what manner of creatures had entered their domain.

The arrival of Pastor J.C. Gundesen and family gave renewed courage to the small congregation. He also applied for a homestead, so he could provide for his family, as he ministered to the needs of his tiny flock.

1905 brought many firsts to the Dickson settlement. The first marriage was performed. The first confirmation service was held when three young people, a Norwegian boy, Ted Thomsen, Pastor Gundesen's eldest daughter, Christine, and a Swedish girl, Thorborg Matson, confirmed their faith. The first Danish Lutheran baptism in western Canada took place when Clara, Henry Larsen's infant daughter, became a member of the Christian Church. As well, Carl Christiansen opened the Dickson Post Office that year.

During 1905 and 1906, there was



an influx of more Danish settlers. About this time a disagreement arose concerning the location of the proposed church building. This dispute became so serious that there was a split in the congregation. Pastor Gundesen faithfully served both factions during this difficult period. But as has been typical of Bethany's history, God's spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation prevailed and both groups united in the common effort of building a church. Mr. M. Eliassen donated the northwest corner of section 36 to be used for the church and cemetery. Then began the mammoth undertaking of cutting logs and getting them sawn into lumber. Mr. L.B. Christensen had donated the land for a parsonage.

The Bethany Lutheran Church was finished and dedicated in 1911. The pastor's salary that year was \$350 with the clear understanding that he was to provide hay for his own horses.

In 1912, the congregation gave \$50 (a tremendous amount of money to early settlers) for work amongst the Danes in Calgary, and allowed Pastor J. Magnussen to go there one Sunday a month to conduct Danish worship services. The beautiful Sharon Lutheran Church in Calgary has its roots in this effort. Later Pastor Gundesen held services for the Danes in Olds, laying the groundwork for what is now St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Dickson Choir was organized with Fred Pedersen as director for more than 30 years. Fred was also a much loved Sunday School superintendent for 37 years. As well, a Young People's Society, a Library, a Ladies Aid, and a Mission Society were all established in those early years.

The First of July Picnic (Dominion Day), a joint effort by Ungdomsforeningen and Kvindeforeningen, was a great social event for surrounding communities, including the Town of Innisfail. There was always a good program, with the choir, music, often a political speaker, lots of good food, games and a contest for all ages, Ring Riding and baseball games.

In the meantime, Carl Christensen, who had been a grocery clerk in Omaha, opened Christensen's General Store, which was to serve the community for more than 70 years. The Post Office and store occupied the ground floor of the frame building, while family living quarters were upstairs.

As the pioneers were able to buy a few cows, a cream route to Dan Morkeberg's Markerville Creamery provided a small income. For some families, that tiny cream cheque was the means of keeping "the wolf from the door".

The late 1920s and 1930s, saw a wave of Danish immigrants to western Canada. Many came to the Dickson area because they had heard of that Danish colony. A number of them stayed, bought farms and became part of the church and community.

It was in 1929, at the onset of the great Depression, that Pastor Paul Nyholm, a man who had great influence on Danish Lutheranism in Western Canada, began his six year ministry in Dickson. Nyholm, who was born in Hjørring, Denmark, into a family with a lineage of pastors dating back to 1746, had emigrated to the United States in 1922, where he taught at Dana College and Seminary in Blair, Nebraska, the profession to which he returned after his stay in Dickson.

After he and his young wife, Ingrid, had somewhat adjusted themselves to circumstance in a rural pioneer community, he became very concerned about the welfare of the Danes scattered throughout Alberta. He involved congregation members in a program of seeking out and visiting these people. **Continued on Page 4**

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Lutheran Congregation continued...

He conceived the idea of publishing a twice-monthly paper, *Kirken og Hjemmet* (Church and Home) to serve as a link amongst the Danes in Canada. The first issue was printed in 1930, and the paper filled a definite need for many years, until it was discontinued in the 1960s. He also spearheaded the organization of the Lutheran Bible Camp at Sylvan Lake, which today is a much used modern church retreat.

Of deep concern to the Nyholms and senior members of the community was the lack of educational opportunities for the growing number of young people in the district, beyond that offered by the one-room school. Nyholm, a man of action, contacted the Department of education and as a result high school classes in the Church basement were begun in the fall of 1930. Miss Elsa Gundesen, a dedicated teacher, volunteered her services, even without pay if money was not available for the usual salary.

Good reports of the school reached other districts and parents were anxious to have their children attend

Dickson High School. The young men seemed to find homes where they could work for their room and board, or places where two or three could batch. But the big problem was housing for the girls. As always, where there is a will, there is a way. Pastor Bentsen, who had bought land while in Dickson, heard of the need and donated land for a dormitory. Mr. Holm-Moller, a Danish architect and Pastor Nyholm's father-in-law, drew the blue prints and supervised the building of 'Pigernes Hus'. The work was done mostly by volunteers, although one carpenter was hired for \$1.50 per day. Mrs. Holm-Moller became the first matron. Furnishings were sparse with homemade tables and straw mattresses. Plumbing consisted of a well with a pump that often needed priming, and an outhouse. No one complained, and all took their turn at kitchen duty, cleaning and other chores. A few years later, classrooms were added to the dormitory building, and these were used until a four-room school was built in Dickson. Then the building was used again strictly for student living quarters.

In the 1950s, with the advent of consolidated schools and school buses, the entire rural education system changed, and Dickson High School and dormitory became history, but the impact it had on the lives of scores of young people has not been forgotten.

The years have gone by. It is now a man's life-span since the first settlers came to Dickson to establish a Danish Community, in a place with no buildings, no roads and no cleared land. Today it is a prosperous modern farming community, with excellent roads and recreation facilities. In 1968, a new church was built, which serves people of various national backgrounds. A stone cairn, dedicated to the memory of the pioneers, was built at the site of the old church.

Although the Danish language has lost its predominance, the Danish culture is very much evident in many homes and community events. Danish kransekage often graces wedding and anniversary tables. Classes are held in the art of making Danish pastry as well as in Scandinavian needlecraft. Juleaften is celebrated in most homes, even in some of English or American ancestry, who have borrowed the custom of celebrating Christmas Eve. It is common practice to decorate the Christmas tree with folded paper stars and woven baskets and, in some instances, with miniature flags. Good Danish holiday eating includes: leverpostej, rullepolse, pebbernodder, sirupskager, vanillekranse, kringler, klejner and other mouth-watering goodies.

Every autumn, the Church Women host a Turkey Supper, which features rodkaal and Danish applecake (aeblekage). One year it was decided to serve pies instead of applecake, but people expressed their disappointment saying: "We can get pie at any community supper, but we come to Dickson for Danish applecake". Needless to say, the ladies did not repeat that mistake.

Perhaps we, the second, third and fourth generation Danes, can best honour the faith and courage of our pioneer forefathers by proudly preserving our heritage, traditions and customs, thereby contributing something of real value to the cultural mosaic of our Canada.



ST. HANS

This summer many of you will participate in St. Hans festivals. Perhaps you are wondering what the festival signifies. This article gives the history of the festival as it is celebrated in Norway.

The midsummer festival of St. Hans (June 24) is still celebrated in Norway today, much as it has been for many hundreds of years. Like its midwinter counterpart, this festival was originally held in honour of the sun, the ancients believing that the sun's change of course was an event of great moment. If the sun failed to take the right path, mankind was doomed to extinction. The gates of the upper and lower worlds stood wide open at this time, and every living creature was endangered by the supernatural beings that roamed the earth. Trolls and goblins thronged the countryside and ordinary mortals had to protect themselves as best they could, with fire and steel.

After the introduction of Christianity in the year 1000 or thereabouts, the Church quickly realized that a mere ban would not suffice to dispel such deep-rooted beliefs. Instead, the people were allowed to celebrate in

the traditional manner, but the ancient festivals were given new meanings. The midwinter celebration became the Christian festival of Christmas, and that of midsummer was taken to be the birth of John the Baptist (Johannes - Hans). But, as is so often the case, the old beliefs survived along with the new, and as a result the customs and superstitions surrounding Midsummer Day are now a very strange mixture indeed.

The bonfires that are still lit on Midsummer's Eve were originally intended to give renewed power to the sun when it changed its course (though the summer solstice actually falls on June 21). Then, as now, pitch was used to make a good blaze. This was no coincidence, however, as pitch was also believed to be an effective safeguard against sorcery and witchcraft. But fire was the best protection at midsummer, and the custom has survived to this day.

On Midsummer Day the witches held their principal feast of the year. Witches and trolls roamed far and wide, destroying everything that was not protected by fire or steel. This was the night when the witches set out to keep their tryst with the Evil One, whether in a church or on a mountain peak. They availed themselves of the most peculiar means of transport — imps, bucks, broomsticks and pokers. Only a century ago it was still customary to hide the poker and to carve a cross on the broomstick, to prevent the witches from taking them away. The witches used to soar up the chimney and fly high over land and sea to their trysting-places. A witch attending such a gathering for the first time had to sign her name in a great book in her own blood. Continued on Page 5



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Hayride

St. Hans continued...

Unlike witches, however, the denizens of the underworld itself were not wholly evil. As long as one remained friendly with them, they were helpful and made good neighbours. One way of showing them friendship was to make an offering of ale at the foot of the tree in the farmyard on Midsummer Eve.

The forces of good were also active on Midsummer Night. Herbs, air, and water acquired a miraculous power to bring good fortune. Herbs had to be gathered after the night dew had fallen, as it was the dew that possessed this remarkable property. The churchyard was the best place to collect the dew; early next morning the sick and ailing were wrapped in

sheets still soaking with churchyard dew.

The present-day custom of using boughs of birch for decoration is also of very ancient origin. It is assumed to have its roots in worship of the germinating power, the foliage being a symbol of the life force which awakens in Nature in the spring and early summer.

Attend St. Hans Fest This Year

By Bob Burt

Members and their families are urged to participate in the mid-summer St. Hans' Fest gathering this year at the Lutheran Church Camp site at Mulhurst on Pigeon Lake, June 20-22nd for a great time. There is

plenty of space for trailers, cabins can be rented, and a good time is available.

There will be horse-shoe tournaments, log-cutting, nail-hammering, fishing, swimming, golf and possibly croquet. Then there will be pancakes Saturday and Sunday morning. Provide your own lunch, and your steak for the Saturday evening barbeque, the rest will be provided. Following the barbeque Saturday evening there will be the usual camp-fire and singsong.

These St. Hans' Fest weekends have been held for so many years, and so many have fond memories of the great times, 'those were the good old days'.

At any rate, don't miss this year and its many opportunities for fun and sociality.

Hayride - An Exhilarating Experience

By Bob Burt

Sons of Norway Solgylt Lodge 143, members and friends thoroughly enjoyed the Hayride March 15th at Fort Edmonton. What a gorgeous setting and grand evening, when 30 couples and one took part in the action. The atmosphere of old Fort Edmonton certainly blended in with the Hayride.

The bean supper and salads provided by Dave and Goldie Borge were great; we were well looked after by Keith and Cheryn Lillevolden. All was well with the barracks and lamp lighting, adding to the spirit of pioneering and a jolly time. It should happen again and again.

After the supper a short meeting was held. It was stated that the heads of District Four Convention had pulled in their horns and decided it best to withdraw the clause "You can't attend the convention if you don't have S/N Insurance". So, with this in mind, delegates to attend the convention were named. Janette Burt asked that her name be omitted from the list of delegates, while Sig Sorenson, Betty Broen, Astrid Hope and Kris Nyhus will attend. Alternates were named: Per Nielsen, Selma Sorenson, Bernice Nyhus and Wally Broen. These names have been submitted to the Convention heads.

Flag Raising for Syttende Mai

By Bob Burt

Flag-raising ceremonies were held at City Hall May 17th (Syttende Mai) with loyal members in attendance. As usual there was the dedication, the flag-waving by the children, and the bright Norwegian bunads. Kris Nyhus, President of Sons of Norway, assisted in the ceremonies.

Following the service and singing of the Norwegian Anthem, the gathering proceeded to the Royal Copenhagen Restaurant for lunch. There was a sing-song and many toasts — "Skole" — celebrating the liberation of the Norsk. This function did not end the day of festivity, as members and friends converged on the Masonic Temple for a banquet and dance in the evening.

The crowning of the New Queen (Linda Nyhus) was most colourful. Later medals and pins for years of service were presented to deserving members.

Folk-Dancers

By Stan Johnson

The VALHALLA SCANDINAVIAN FOLKDANCERS are still meeting Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at MacKay House (104 Street and 99 Avenue). Upcoming performances at Muttart Conservatory on May 4 and May 24, as well as a performance at the Danish Canadian Club on April 28 and the Finnish Society Dance on April 26. On May 15 the dancers will perform at the Glenrose Hospital.

The workshop in Calgary on March 1st and 2nd was well attended and enjoyed. Our club is planning to sponsor another workshop in Edmonton in September.

Anyone interested in attending or finding out more about the dancing can either "show up" or phone Brett Nash (463-3203) or Kris Nyhus (487-1450).

Sons of Norway Canadian Foundation Scholarships

By Bob Burt

At a meeting held at Burnaby B.C., March 23rd by the Foundation members it was said that money was available for scholarships. Last year \$18,000 was donated to the Foundation and \$16,000 was given out for scholarships and worthwhile cultural and charitable groups.

Six \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded in September 1986 for students attending post-secondary institutions following any field; but especially for those participating in Norwegian cultural activities. Closing date for filing applications is July 31, 1986. These applications can be obtained from Ken Domier at 434-6532.

Through 1987 two \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded to attend Camp Norway or to attend the University of Oslo. Closing date for these grants will be March 31, 1987; applications will have to be completed and forwarded by then. There are 14 lodges in British Columbia and 5 in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

To obtain a life membership in the Canadian Foundation S/N one donates \$100.00, tax deductible, to Mrs. Evelyn Novik, Secretary Treasurer, S/N Foundation in Canada, #311 6635 McKay Ave., Burnaby B.C., V5H 2X3.

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Thurs. June 26*	July 9	2 weeks	\$865	\$915	\$915	\$965	\$940	\$990
Thurs. June 26*	July 16	3 weeks	\$865	\$915	\$915	\$965	\$940	\$990
Thurs. June 26*	Aug. 06	6 weeks	\$895	\$945	\$945	\$995	\$970	\$1020
Thurs. June 26*	Aug. 20	8 weeks	\$865	\$915	\$915	\$965	\$940	\$990
Thurs. June 26*	Sept. 03**	10 weeks	\$865	\$915	\$915	\$965	\$940	\$990

* June 26 Charter departs from Calgary, connecting flight from Vancouver or Edmonton included, in above fare schedule.

Thurs. July 10*	July 16	1 week	\$765	\$815	\$815	\$865	\$840	\$890
Thurs. July 10*	Aug. 06	4 weeks	\$895	\$945	\$945	\$995	\$970	\$1020
Thurs. July 10*	Aug. 20	6 weeks	\$895	\$945	\$945	\$995	\$970	\$1020
Thurs. July 10*	Sept. 03**	8 weeks	\$865	\$915	\$915	\$965	\$940	\$990

* July 10 Charter departs from Vancouver, connecting flight from Calgary or Edmonton included, in above fare schedule.

Thurs. July 17*	Aug. 06	3 weeks	\$895	\$945	\$945	\$995	\$970	\$1020
Thurs. July 17*	Aug. 20	5 weeks	\$895	\$945	\$945	\$995	\$970	\$1020
Thurs. July 17*	Sept. 03**	7 weeks	\$865	\$915	\$915	\$965	\$940	\$990

* July 17 Charter departs from Calgary, connecting flight from Vancouver or Edmonton included, in above fare schedule.

Thurs. Aug. 07*	Aug. 20	2 weeks	\$795	\$845	\$845	\$895	\$870	\$920
Thurs. Aug. 07*	Sept. 03**	4 weeks	\$895	\$945	\$945	\$995	\$970	\$1020

* Aug. 07 Charter departs from Calgary, connecting flight from Vancouver or Edmonton included, in above fare schedule.

Thurs. Aug. 21*	Sept. 03**	2 weeks	\$865	\$915	\$915	\$965	\$940	\$990
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** Sept. 03 Return flight may operate via Toronto.

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In Memory Of ERIC PIERRE

Skandia 549 lost one of its most stalwart and long-time members with the death of Eric Pierre on April 13th.

Eric came to Canada with his cousin Eric Olsen in 1927, and after a stint of farming, worked with the CNR on the B & B and with the bridge-building crews. He was very active with the various organizations within the railroading fraternity, and even then was a regular visitor to the sick.

Eric, along with others including Alvin Samuelson and Herbert Hokanson, was very committed to the idea of having a country property where children might go to camp, and was instrumental in securing the property now known as Vasa Park. He took a large part in the building and maintaining of the lake property, and served as the Chairman of the Land Committee for two years, and the treasurer for 25 years. He also took charge of building ramps, etc. so that St. Joseph's wheelchair patients might better enjoy the facilities, and helped several people build their cabins, even before he built his own.

Eric, a charter member of Skandia in November 1929, was Chairman of the Lodge for 6 years and secretary for 1 year. He was a member of the Past Chairman's Club, and was the Chairman for 4 years and the treasurer for 2 years. He was the co-ordinator of the Annual Smorgasbord for 10 years, and organized Scandapades for 8 years, during which time he built stage props and handled ticket selling. He also helped build floats and booths for the club for the Edmonton Exhibition.

Eric was also a member of the Scandinavian Centre Co-op, selling shares until funds were raised for the building. He took on a large share of the building, particularly in the basement area, and arranged to shovel the snow away in winter, to make parking easier. He was a



Eric Pierre and Harold Markstrom

member of the Board of Directors and then a member of the Past-Directors' Club. He was also Treasurer for 1 year.

Eric was also active within District 18. He was District Master for 2 years, a delegate to the District Convention 15 times and a delegate to the Grand Lodge Convention in Rhode Island in 1962. He was Grand Deputy for Alberta - an appointed position for 4 years. He was also active in the District curling and bowling for 10 years. He was made an Honorary member with voice and vote with District 18. He participated in Skandia 549 curling for 7 years, and bowling for 15 years, taking many trophies along the way. He was also a member of the Public Relations Committee.

Eric was also a Charter Member of the Vasa Pioneers #12. He was Chairman of the group from its inception in September 1980, until 1983, when he handed the Chairmanship over to Harold Markstrom.

The accompanying picture shows Eric on the left, after he was presented with the Charter by Linnea Lodge, Grand Lodge Cultural Director. On the right is present chairman, Harold Markstrom.

While involved in all of the above, Eric still had time to visit the sick, take an active part in fund-raising for St. Joseph's Hospital patients, and assist bereaved families with arrangements. He arranged billeting for the Sofic girls when they came over from Sweden, and took part in the choir for Christmas at Augustana Lutheran Church. He seemed to be able to remember every child born within the lodge.

Eric made a trip to Sweden in 1977, marking his 50th Anniversary of leaving that country. Recently, he had been in failing health, but remained active as long as possible.

Sincere condolences to his wife, Hansine.

Vasa Lodge Skandia

By Helen McEvoy

Norden Lodge in Camrose very ably hosted the Annual District 18 Curling and Bowling playoffs on March 22nd, with the bowling taking place in Camrose and the curling at New Norway. Lodges from Red Deer, Falun, Skandia, Buford, Lethbridge, Norden and, for the first time, Stavely entered the bowling. As the Stavely group was short a player, Lennart Petersson "stood in" for them.

Representatives from Calgary, Lethbridge, Skandia, Norden, Falun and Buford took part in the curling. Skandia had two teams entered. Skandia No. 1, skipped by Alan Eliasson, with Helen McEvoy, Hank Berkenbosch and Matt Eliasson, took the District Trophy. Skandia No. 2, skipped by Milton Fawcett with Tom Pearson, Virgie Fawcett and Connie Plason, placed second.

Skandia was also represented by two bowling teams. Sid and Rosalyn Johnson, Gordon and Dorothy Johnson and Trevor Nyroos made up one team. The other team of Doreen Nyroos, Kjill Nyroos, Gertie Duxbury and Greg and Fran Johnson, placed second for the tournament, while a Lethbridge team won the District Trophy. Although not taking part in the sporting events, Joan Petersson, Linnea Lodge, Leonard Eliasson and Lori Berkenbosch and young son, Matthew, made the trip to Camrose and attended the banquet at the Norseman Inn.

During the evening, Master of Ceremonies Ken Johansen, paid tribute to the only remaining charter member, Helen Pearson, and presented her with a bouquet of flowers. A rousing welcome was also given to an 83-year-old participant from Lethbridge in the person of Asta Hage, who is Mrs. Andy Alm's mother.

Later in the evening, Lethbridge Lodge presented the Travelling Viking to Ruby Swedberg, Chairman of Norden Lodge. A dance followed the presentations.

The 1987 District Curling and Bowling will be held in Wetaskiwin, hosted by Falun.

John Bergstrom was presented with his 50-year pin at the March meeting.

Five new members were initiated into Skandia 549 at the April meeting. They are: Lena G. Johnson, Nick R. Johnson, Loraine Johnson, Rodney G. Johnson and Cyndi Matsson.

Also at the April meeting, we had a guest from Vasa Lodge in Detroit, Gustav William Swanson. Mr. Swanson had lived in Edmonton until 22 years ago, and as he was in the city on business, he had checked in with the Swedish Consul to see whether there might be a Scandinavian function he might attend.

Martha and Bill Kay spent 10 days in B.C., during the early part of April, visiting with Lulu and Harold Lundgren in Kamloops, and then on to Victoria to visit with Bill's cousin. Martha's holiday was somewhat spoiled when she discovered she had lost her Visa card. However it hasn't dampened her enthusiasm for B.C. — they will be returning to take in Expo.

Wayne and Audrey Modin and son Jason flew to Reno where Wayne played in a hockey tournament from April 16th to 21st. Evelyn and Willard Modin had motored to Radium Hot Springs the week before, for an extended weekend, but found it very cold and windy.

Skandia members will recall Evelyn Johnson buzzing around, selling tickets for the Alberta Hospital Association fund-raising quilt raffle. Funds were divided between Ronald McDonald House and the Hospital Association. Two of the winners were Anna Sund and Linnea Lodge.

During the past few months, some prospective new members have made the scene. Pat and Barry Weiss presented Millie and Emil Weiss with a new granddaughter, Jeannine Katherine, born February 26th. Ken and Helen McEvoy have a new grandson, born March 31st, courtesy of Trudy and Neal. Peggy and Don Hosteyn are the proud parents of a baby girl, Rachelle Dawn, born on December 31st.

Gertie Duxbury has moved to the Northgate Towers, where she is a neighbour to Eunice Haug. Gertie reports she attended the 60th Wed-



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ding Anniversary of Anna and Frank Dodd's on March 29th.

Millie and Emil Weiss had, as their guests in mid-April, Russel and Kay Norberg from Moose Jaw.

We extend our sympathy to Florence Erikson and Rosella Forsberg in the loss of their sister, Grace Maxwell, on March 24th.

The required meeting of the Vasa Sisters was held at Astrid Winquist's home in March, and at Charlotte Samuelson's in April. Both meetings were well attended, and plans were made for the annual raffle. Astrid Winquist is donating an afghan; Ruth Berquist has donated two lovely cushions; and Irma McMaster has made a beautiful large doily. Thanks to these ladies, and to Norene Markstrom and Terry Runcer, who are making all the tickets. The next meeting will be at the home of Beulah Hinton on May 15th.

At the May 5th meeting of Skandia 549, Matt Eliasson was presented with her 25-year pin. At this meeting, the members were treated to a performance by the Strathcona Sunshine Singers, of which Evelyn Johnson is a member.

Harold and Minnie Markstrom enjoyed a few days away at the end of April, travelling to Kelowna where they visited old friends, and then home through Creston and Banff. Ken McEvoy made a short trip to Vancouver to visit Oscar and Winnie Pearson at the end of April. He reports Oscar is in good health, and Winnie very busy running back and forth to the hospital. Her grand-daughter, Merrilee, was badly scalded when the hot water tank in their bus exploded.

Belated birthday greetings to Trevor Nyroos, who celebrated his 18th birthday on April 15th, and to Winnie Pearson, whose birthday was on May 3rd. Also on May 3rd, Emma

Nelson was honoured at a family dinner at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Les and Carrie Nelson, on the occasion of her 85th birthday. Her birthdate is actually April 27th. Emma has 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. There were 32 family members present.

Hansine Pierre has moved in to McAuley Lodge. She had been staying with family members - the Grossman's - since Eric's death. We wish her well in her new home.

Linnea and Henry Lodge holidayed for the month of April. They travelled first to Kamloops, Vancouver and Victoria, visiting friends and relatives, and then on down the coast to California. They visited with Linnea's sister in San Francisco then on to Las Vegas, Palm Springs, Death Valley and Reno. They report a very leisurely and enjoyable trip.

Don't forget the Summer Camp for members' children at Vasa Park during the week of July 20th - 27th. Dorothy and Gordon Johnson are again in charge.

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Local Bowlers on B.C. Tour

By Bob Burt

Have you ever been on a bus tour when every passenger was to be involved in the same sport? Then you might have travelled with Senior Citizens on a Bowling Tour. On April 18th, six bowlers from Devon decided to end the season with a bang! They went on a 10-day bowling spree.

The bus, originating in Edmonton, carried 41 bowlers, from Newton Lanes and Scona Bowl, Edmonton, from Vermilion, Barrhead, Leduc and Devon. Those from Devon included Alvin and Florence Raynard, Bud and Dorothy Morris, Sandy Duncan and Bob Burt. From Leduc, Irene and Bill Mullens, Karl and Alma Johansson, Anne Tomte and Isabell Evans represented the Leduc Lanes.

The hostess was Dee Johnstone and the bus driver was Shannon Riley. These two treated us royally; touring the beautiful Rocky Mountains and

Shuswap Lakes, we visited Revelstoke Dam, a plant nursery, Mission Hill Winery and the Armstrong Cheese factory. We visited six bowling lanes and enjoyed their hospitality, made new friends and competed in the bowling tournament. Time was allowed to visit relatives and friends enroute. I ran into Del and Doreen Melsness from Courney, B.C. at Osoyoos in competition.

This event was the 10th Annual Bowling Tournament, held at Osoyoos. It involved a two-day bowl-off for each team. The 17-day event involved 583 teams competing for prizes and money. Bowlers travelled from as far as Vancouver Island and Saskatchewan.

Prizes were also given at each of the towns where we bowled, including Salmon Arm, Summerland, Penticton, Osoyoos and Armstrong. The weather wasn't all that good, but

our activities were indoors. All participants thoroughly enjoyed the bowling. The average age on our bus (41 plus the driver and hostess), was 69.416 years. The oldest, at 88 years, was one of the boys. Wouldn't you enjoy the ride on a bowler's bus?

We returned Sunday, April 28th. Monday morning, the Leduc Lanes wound down their bowling for the season with a fun bowl, dinner and presentation of trophies. The Devon members were outstanding in both team and individual awards.

Bud Morris, Bob Burt and Ken Campbell, together with Marjorie Campbell, Alma Johansson and Toni Oulton, men's and ladies' 3-member bowling teams left April 5th for Calgary to compete in the Golden Age National Finals for the Provincial Championship. We did not win, but gave it a good try, and learned something.

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Dale McBride and Sev Berge

Do You Remember?

Walter Rogers Trophy: Walter Pelech, Glen Finstad, Marlene Moore, Keith Moore



'A' Section Winners: Dale and Olga McBride



By Bob Burt

The winter evenings of hurling rocks down the lane at a single man holding a broom are soon forgotten. But it was fun; that's why the Sportsmen's banquet was held. April 18th will long be remembered, curlers talked over close games, wins and losses; the Silver Broom and the many games over the season that evening at the Balmoral Curling Rink.

Those ardent sportsmen (Curlers) gathered to distribute the spoils and enjoy the fellowship they maintained over the winter. An even forty makes a good gathering when all thoughts are of curling and a good time.

Sev Berge, jovial Master of Ceremonies, put all in a happy frame of mind for a great supper and the activities to follow.

Dale McBride took over for the presentation of Trophies after the meal. The coveted 'Silver Broom' went to Keith Moore, Selma Domier and Evelyn Johnson. The "Wally Rogers Memorial Trophy", for most sportsman-like team, was presented to the Keith Moore foursome with Marlene Moore, Glen Finstad and Walter Pelech.

The "Over-All" winners, the rink with the most points accumulated over the season, went to the Berge team including Rose Berge, Barry Lofto, Ken and Selma Domier, presented by Sev Berge.

Winners of Section "A" in the playoffs:

Dale and Olga McBride with Bud and Faye Osborne (Bud and Faye didn't make the banquet). The Trophy was presented by Sev Berge.

Second in "A" Section were Rose Berge with Barry Lofto, Ken and Selma Domier.



Silver Broom Award: Evelyn Johnson, Keith Moore, Selma Domier

Third in "A" Section were Leo Allegretto, D. Fitzpatrick and Wilma Webber.

Fourth in "A" went to Keith Moore, Glen Finstad, Marlene Moore and Walter Pelech.

Over-all Winners: Sev and Rose Berge, Selma and Ken Domier



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In the "B" Section:

First place went to Keith Lillevolden with rink Dave Howell, Cheryn Lillevolden and Ray Cartwright.

Second place in "B" was taken by Evelyn and Gary Johnson with Rod and Lori Osborne.

Third place in "B" went to Peter and Janet Finstad with Wayne and Laura Neigel.

Fourth place went to Glen Kirkwood with Wanda and Willy Ducherer and Augie Wigger.

In the "C" Section:

First place went to Doug and Shirley Donnelly with Lionel and Del Moncrieff.

Second place to Barbara and Trevor Wright.

Third place to Goldie and Dave Borge, Norm Legaarden and Cathy Brodeur.

Fourth place to Al and Brenda Lentendre and Judy Richardson.

All this activity made for a very pleasant evening. Sev was in charge of the music to dance to rounding off the evening.



'B' Section Winners: Cheryn and Keith Lillevolden

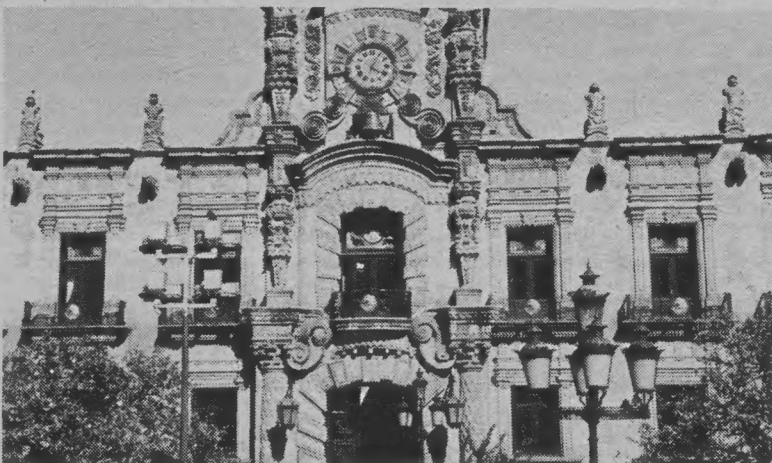
begins. There are many entertainments available, such as boat rides, parasailing or deep-sea fishing. Evenings are spent eating delicious sea food, attending "Fiestas", dancing, drinking tequila or free margaritas. A jungle tour is offered, sailing to the islands, or experiencing the local bus ride to take in the town shops.

routine started all over again, this time at Mexico's second largest sea port. With our past week's experience at Mazatlan, we were veterans. It was easy to turn away vendors as we sought our own delights and enjoyed the sun and our holiday.

By mid-week we were looking for a diversion so we took a day flight to Guadalajara for a tour and a shopping spree. It was a mistake to try to visit Mexico's second largest city thinking we could see it all in one day. We were exhausted trying to take it all in. It was back to Puerto Vallarta. We did

But a week of this was enough; we flew off to Puerto Vallarta, and the

Government Building — Guadalajara



not want to miss the fabulous restaurants or the downtown shops, this time taking it easy.

It was winter in Mexico, and although it was not cold the country had had no rain since December, nor did they expect any before May. The ground was powder dry, yet flowers were starting to bloom, trees were

Repairing the Cathedral — Guadalajara



flowering, and there were signs of beauty to come.

The best time to be in Mexico, other than in winter, I believe is in June when flowers are in full bloom. Mexico grows mangos, pineapples and limes. Tobacco is harvested twice a year. Vegetables such as sweet potatoes, corn and bananas, peanuts and figs grow profusely. Coconuts, pears and avacados grow well and tequila cactus is grown in acre sections.

Although Mexico appears to be a very poor country, everyone seems to be very busy and the majority sing and smile. They try hard to keep their homes, streets and roads clean. But with little pavement in rural areas, poor housing and poorer wages, it is a problem. Re-building and repairing of roads, homes, churches and businesses, all add to the dust and dirt, but does contribute to the work force of the country.

If you are thinking of a holiday south try Mexico. New resorts are presently being opened. If you are interested in historical sights, or sight-seeing, go further south to the Yucatan area, as it is worth investigating.

Down Mexico Way

By Bob Burt

Through winter Canadians think seriously of trying to get away from the cold and snow. This is the time one thinks of heading south to the sun and sand. There are more Canadians in Mexico than Americans vacationing.

Mexico provides a bonus in buying power, so we don't lose in the money exchange. With the dollar down, it sounds good when you get over 300 pesos on a dollar. In the exchange one is saddled with large-denomination bills, and a purse full of heavy peso coins. At present a new issue of smaller coins is being minted and two sets of coins further adds to the confusion. The easiest way to compare money to Canadian equivalency is to divide the peso amount by 3 (5,000 pesos equals \$16.66).

Come with us to Mexico! Bob and Agnes Burt left Devon late in February, changing from winter clothes to shirt-sleeves at the airport. We were off to Mazatlan. What a difference, getting off the plane to be hit with a 76°F temperature.

The smiles that were fixed on our faces as the week progressed became ruddy and tanned. There was much to do after settling in our comfortable hotel. Tourists are immediately approached with offers of a free meal, trips and travel, if you say "yes" to a Condo-International purchase. When you get away from this pressure, suit-up for a walk on the sandy beach. There you are approached by vendors hawking rings, dresses, scarves, hats, table-clothes and sarapes. One quickly finds a right price for these articles, and bartering

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STANLEY HAFSO

Torske Klubben

Torske Klubben hear Genealogy

By Bob Burt

Seventy-two enthusiastic Torske members gathered at the Saxony Inn, April 8th to hear tales of Allan Mayer on his trek to the Magnetic North Pole. It was most unfortunate that he was stranded in Yellowknife and unable to get out to make the talk.

Following a most enjoyable meal, members and friends settled to hear Ken Domier give the Genealogy of his family. This study of the family becomes most interesting as one delves back into the past. There are suicides, mixed marriages, escapes and numerous comical skeletons in the closet. His stories kept us laughing.

Next, our outstanding humourist, Jarl Omholt-Jensen, entertained the gathering with his French imitations and borderline jokes. He is the king of jest and apéry. What a night this turned out to be; the hall was jumping with laughter.

At the Torske meeting, May 6th, the speaker, Jose Ariza, spoke on the Columbian Volcano disaster.

Following the usual Torske Supper and the preliminaries, the program continued with the introduction of the guest speaker.

Jose Ariza is a Lutheran minister serving in Columbia, which is a Catholic-dominated country. He showed pictures of the volcano and the damage to homes and land. It brought home to us that we have never experienced disasters such as this, and that we should be thankful for all our blessings and feel grateful that we live in such a trouble-free place. Jose Ariza was thanked for his presentation, and offered two Torske Klubben mugs as a memento of the occasion.

The June Torske Meeting will be "LADIES' NITE". It behooves each of us to be present with a guest to enjoy this June meet, one of the biennial meetings.

Remember June 7th at the Saxony Inn; ladies will be presented with corsages, and it will be a full evening of entertainment.



Edith Rogers HERITAGE DAY DISPLAY — Kris Nyhus and Astrid Hope

Edmonton Heritage Festival August 3 and 4, 1986

CULTURAL CORNER

By Astrid Hope, Cultural Director, Solgylt Lodge, Sons of Norway

On April 25th Anne Marie Woldmo and Astrid Hope were invited to Don Knott's School Multicultural Film Festival and Dessert Party. There were opening remarks by Nick Spillios, Supervisor, Learning Resources Field Services, and we saw "The Magic Quilt". The story was about a Greek and Native people, relating similarities, yet respecting the differences of their ethnic backgrounds. After a short discussion, an evaluation sheet was completed.

This evening replaced their annual Multicultural display and food-fare.

By Ken Domier, President
Scandinavian Heritage Society
of Edmonton

The Scandinavian Heritage Society of Edmonton will be sponsoring a SCANDINAVIAN PAVILION at the Edmonton Heritage Festival to be held in Hawrelak Park on August 3rd and 4th, 1986. The Food Tent will be selling Danish pastries, Icelandic vinarterta and Norwegian lefse. Other delicacies such as Vikings on a Stick (Meatballs) are a possibility. The Cultural Display Tent will have a Norwegian section. Anny-Marie Woldmo and Astrid Hope will be in charge of the displays. As this is an anniversary year for the Edmonton

Heritage Festival Association, we have been asked to have some special displays. If you have something special you would like to show please call Anny-Marie at 435-5590.

Entertainment at the Heritage Festival will be under the direction of Kris Nyhus. If you would like to sing, dance or play a musical instrument at the festival please call Kris Nyhus at 487-1450.

We will be needing volunteers for tent raising and taking down and for the Food and Cultural Tents. Please say "Ja" when you are asked for a few hours of your time. We think the SCANDINAVIAN PAVILION is one of the best if not THE best!

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Sir Donn Larsen

It has recently been made known that Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark has, as of April 16th, 1986, appointed the Royal Danish Consul Donn Larsen as a Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog, in recognition of his valuable service as Consul of Denmark in Edmonton.

We, in the Scandinavian News, take this opportunity to extend to Consul Donn Larsen and his wife, Ella, our congratulations and best wishes for the future.



The Church of Sweden

By Verna Larson
Cultural Leader
Vasa Lodge Skandia

The Church of Sweden was firmly established as an Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1593. It is still closely tied to the State in terms of organization and economy, but is independent in religious matters. All Swedish citizens are members unless they have withdrawn formally or were born to parents who do not belong. Members of independent denominations are often members of the Church of Sweden as well. In 1960 women were allowed to be ordained as ministers.

How a Swedish Pastor wrote "How Great Thou Art"

By Verna Larson
Cultural Leader
Vasa Lodge Skandia

The words to "How Great Thou Art", in Swedish, "O Store Gud" were written by Carl Boberg, a preacher, writer and poet from Monstera, Sweden. It was written in 1885, and published in Monstera-tidningen in 1886.

On a warm summer day in 1885, Carl Boberg and others visited a village in Kronoback, south of Monstera. On their return home a storm came up and when it was over a rainbow appeared. He heard the song of a thrush in the woods; he heard the tolling of a church bell in the distance; and the beauty of the at-

mosphere and nature filled his spirit with such gladness that he wrote a poem of praise, "O Store Gud".

The poem was published in the local paper and a couple of periodicals, after which it was apparently forgotten. Then several years later, the author attended a meeting in the Province of Varmland and was surprised to hear the congregation singing his poem to the tune of an old Swedish melody. The hymn later went out of use in Sweden, but was published in German in 1907 and in Russian in 1927. The English version finally came out about 1949. Sweden has now rediscovered her own hymn.

Foodfest!

By Janina Carlstad, President

The U. of A. SCANDINAVIAN CLUB has just finished hosting its most popular foodfest ever. This year's foodfest was the third annual event of its kind and was held at the Ellerslie Rugby Club in April. A wide variety of Scandinavian foods was donated by many kind and thoughtful guests. The hungry visitor could choose from a host of goodies; smorbrod, cheeses and breads, scrumptious salads, pickled herring, fish puddings, swedish meatballs, cod casseroles, steaming dishes of potato delights, waffles, fromage, kransekake, rice pudding, fruit soup and much, much more.

Shortly after the crowd of approximately 120 people had finished eating, the Valhalla Folk Dancers put on a dance performance which even got members of the audience involved. The performance was followed by an evening of dancing and "more food" for anyone who was still a little hungry. A good time was had by all and the future certainly looks bright for next year's Scandinavian Club Foodfest! (Be sure and buy your tickets soon....)

April 1986 marks the end of the U. of A. Scandinavian Club's third year of existence. The year has been a positive one for the club as ideas and recommendations are put forth to make an even stronger and better club for next year. Several social events were the highlights of the school year as the Scandinavian Club hosted a fall wine and cheese party, a very festive Julefest and a delightful Scandinavian Foodfest.

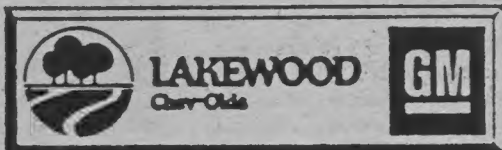
The Club's budget also rests a little easier in preparation for next year due to reasonable profits from an on-campus bake sale and Foodfest ticket sales. The funds will help to ensure a prompt and active beginning for the Scandinavian Club in 86/87.

Membership, as is the case with many clubs, is sometimes rather small, but with events such as the foodfest, the U. of A. Scandinavian Club is becoming a more recognized organization. The Foodfest, an event which started with a house-gathering of 40 people, has in three years blossomed into a function which draws the interest of over 120 people. The club plans to host another foodfest and other social events next year in addition to holding a membership drive and concentrating on other cultural activities such as folk-dancing and Scandinavian language practice. The Scandinavian Club will continue to act as a contact between its members and other Scandinavian cultural groups or organizations.

All the best to the U. of A. Scandinavia Club in 86/87!

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It's a Tradition!

By Astrid Hope

As has been said before, "What a vacation!" I repeat it again and add to that "What a way to celebrate a new tradition!"

Last year Sons of Norway celebrated its 90-year Anniversary by having its first Caribbean Cruise ever; it was repeated this year and will now become a yearly event and a "new tradition".

Nordic American Travel and Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines were chosen to work out the tour plans. The day before departure there was already an influx of "Brothers and Sisters" from other areas at the Miami Hyatt Regency Hotel, readily identified by special red, white and blue S.N. name badges.

Velkommen onboard! words of welcome to come aboard the M.S. Nordic Prince, March 1st. Fred Bjerke and his wife Gunn, President of District 8, Norway, and a "sailor" on

the 90th Anniversary Cruise, were chosen to be the host and hostess. Bill Satterness, Nordic American Marketing Director from the 4th District office, kept us current on travel details.

Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines continued with their own "traditions" on board the Nordic Prince — offering passengers excellent service, food and fun. Shortly after coming aboard colourful streamers and the ship's orchestra were on hand for the Miami Farewell and Bon Voyage Festivities while the ship moved out of harbour. One passenger became as completely enwrapped in streamers as a "mummy". The sound of the ship's whistle signalled a compulsory mustering of all passengers at their lifeboat stations; luckily our cruise was without incident and these manoeuvres would not have to be repeated.

From the time we stepped on board the days were filled with activity and

could be geared to your own pace. Numerous "ship-shape" activities (12 in fact) took place throughout the day; by participating you could earn the coveted exclusive yellow ship-shape T-shirts and visors. (I earned 3 of these T-shirts). There were also less strenuous activities like movies, bingo, cinema races, slot machines, even craft sessions. There were times for complete relaxation and sunbathing in the balmy tropical sun — the temperatures staying at about 75° F.

Nightly, special traditional events occurred: Welcome Passengers Night, Captain's Welcome and Farewell Parties, Masquerade and Costume Parade, Rock and Roll Night, Country and Western, special Directors and Passenger Night. Added functions, laden with comedy were the special T-shirt, limbo, trivia, and water events.

We dined nightly in a different restaurant, all in the same dining-room, just changing room decoration, varying the colour and the menu. Even the dining-room staff got into the act. There was a French night, Caribbean night, Norwegian night as well as others and special ethnic buffets were held around midnight. On the last night a gala buffet was arranged which was a photographer's delight with an array of food and ice-sculptures too beautiful to disturb.

The Nordic Prince made several ports of call where passengers could have their choice of sight-seeing or experiencing Island fun and learning about the history and life of its people. Columbus saw these Islands as gems of rare beauty "excelling all others as far as the day surpasses the night in splendour". Others found them a choice location to prey on ships, and "Blackbeard" the pirate built a tower so he could spot ships to pounce on. Nassau City, a port in the Bahamas, offered several city tours, straw markets were prevalent, and one could view the Ardastra Gardens — the home of the "marching" flamingoes. I took a catamaran cruise on the funship "Yellowbird" (with live calypso music) stopping at a lovely beach for swimming and culminating in a hilarious limbo contest on the ship's return.

The next port was San Juan, city of old and new, in Puerto Rico, where Christopher Columbus landed in 1493. San Juan was not fated to be a city of peace. It was threatened by

both Carib Indians and buccaneers, as well as by rivalries between European powers. El Morro, a fortress and landmark, is still one of the feature tourist attractions. Built on 6 levels, El Morro is honeycombed with tunnels, dry moats and other ingenious defences. Another tour passed fields of sugar cane to the Baccardi distillery, the largest of its kind in the world — saw how rum is made and even tasted it. Taxis as numerous as ants were available for transportation to the many stores — which must have been sitting over gold mines! The number of jewellery stores was incredible. In Old San Juan, we could wander down the narrow cobblestone streets, once trod upon by Spanish conquistadores, and then become part of the fast nightlife in New San Juan's nightclubs and casinos.



Astrid Hope, Prizewinner of Masquerade and Costume Parade

St. Thomas was one of the highlights of the cruise. We stayed there two days. Besides having the most beautiful scenery and beaches of the world, it was a shopper's paradise! Then there were the duty-free shops! Charlotte Amalie, the port where we landed, is the capital of the U.S. Virgin Islands and was named for a Queen of Denmark. Strolling around Charlotte Amalie, I came across streets with an assortment of typical Danish names like Brand Gade (Fire Street), Dronningens Gade (Queen Street), Gaase Gade (Goose Street), and many others. Denmark Hill, now

Gunn Bjerke, Capt. Andreassen, Fred Bjerke and Bill Satterness



the Danish Consulate, is in the area where half of St. Thomas' famous, elegant homes are situated. The Norwegian Consulate was in the immediate area and just a walk away from where the Nordic Prince was docked. Most spectacular were the century-old red-roofed mansions set in tropical gardens and trees, stairways and arches.

The highlight, of course, was the association and group activities arranged by the Sons of Norway Cruise Committee. Thirty-three members got together for a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres party with Fred and Gunn Bjerke our most amicable host and hostess. Also present were his in-laws, Lilli and Kjell Tollerod, all from Hamresanden, Norway. After brief introductions, I learned that members came from Lodges far and wide, like Leif Erickson (Seattle), Oslo "2" (Minneapolis), Fagerlund (North Dakota), Ryvingen (Connecticut), District 4 Office (Minneapolis). They came from Toronto and from Norway. Fred, M.C., introduced us to our captain, Osten Andreassen, native of Norway, and a veteran of the Navy for more than 35 years. He has been Master of all the R.C.C.L. at one time or another. Captain Osten told us that the Nordic Prince is the second largest of the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and was built in Finland. After extending its length to 637 ft. it now has a capacity of 1,038 passengers, and a crew and staff of 400. All the R.C.L. ships are modelled with similar floor plans. In 2 years another ship will be ready and it is going to be 300 feet longer and a few stories higher than the largest ship "Song of America" with the capacity of 2000 passengers. It follows a "tradition" of keeping the excellent standards in cruising elegance and also that of a continued sea-faring tradition which started with the Vikings a thousand years ago.

A group picnic was arranged for Magen's Bay in St. Thomas — named one of the world's 10 most beautiful beaches. A most beautiful day for picnicking! Champagne, picnic lunch, swimming in salt-water, sun tanning, socializing! We were entertained too! One member did a skit on baseball (apparently has been repeated countless numbers of times) and received a tumultuous ovation. Being conveyed in an open-air sloop enabled us to view more beautiful beaches and scenery, also Bluebeards Castle en route.

Besides having been allotted to tables in the Dining Room in groups, there was another informal meeting, including a slide presentation by Bill Satterness of Nordic Travel, coffee and goodies. These meetings helped us to know each other, and from then on we recognized our "brothers and sisters" in the 'city of passengers'. Some made lasting friendships as they shared experiences. Some spoke of "cruising" again, perhaps for the 3rd Annual S.N. Cruise already in the planning.

The day for debarkation came too soon. Now tanned, holiday over, it was with reluctance we bid our good-byes. To our new-found friends we wished "God tur, se de neste aar."

Astrid Hope and the NORDIC PRINCE



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